

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TREASURY

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 105875

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:MAY 6 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

PRES PROPOSES SWEEPING 507 MILLION DOL AID PROGRAM FOR VIET, KHMER REFUGEES THROUGH MID-1976 (UPI, CHITRIB).

SIZE OF REQUEST REFLECTS MOUNTING NUMBER OF REFUGEES.

DEAN BROWN AT 5/5 CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SAID REFUGEES WILL NOT BE RESETTLED IN DEPRESSED AREAS (WSJ).

ADMIN TRIES COUNTER PUBLIC RESISTANCE TO ADMITTING REFUGEES (WIEGHART, NYDN). EDGY HOUSE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE RAISED QUESTIONS ON COST, SCREENING, RESETTLEMENT; BILL MUCH MORE LIKELY PASS THAN ONE

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REJECTED BY CONGRESS LAST THURSDAY (BLONSTON, PHINQ).

PRES' REQUEST GREETED WITH LITTLE ENTHUSIASM BY SUB-COMMITTEE; AFTER HEARING, CHMN SAID INFO ON WHICH ADMIN BASING REQUEST "TOO INDEFINITE," AND LESSER FIGURE MIGHT

BE AUTHORIZED (MEYER, WP). APPEARS GENERAL CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR BASIC IDEA (PEPPER, SUN). SOME IN HOUSE DOUBT PROPRIETY OF ASYLUM FOR SVN OFFICIALS. BROWN ENCOUNTERED NUMBER OF CRITICAL COMMENTS FROM CONGRESSMEN (BINDER, NYT).

WASHINGTON MAIL ON REFUGEE AID SPLIT, WITH 60-PCT RECEIVED BY WH IN FAVOR, WHILE HILL LETTERS RUN ABOUT 50-PCT STRONGLY AGAINST (HEALY, NYDN). CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC CRITICISM ON ADMISSION OF VIET REFUGEES HAS SHOCKED, DISTURBED PRES (KILPATRICK, WP). FORD ACTS TO REASSURE US ON REFUGEES, TRIES RESOLVE RESETTLEMENT QUESTION (STROUT, CSM). PRES EXPECTED MAKE STRONG DEFENSE OF ADMITTING, AIDING VIET REFUGEES IN TV NEWS CONFERENCE TONIGHT, 7:30 EDT (KUMPA, SUN). PRES THANKED ARKANSAS, FLA GOVS FOR SUPPORTING VIET RESETTLEMENT, POINTEDLY IGNORED CALIF GOV WHO CRITICIZES EVACUATION (UPI, NYT).

FLOTILLA OF SMALL VESSELS BRINGS VIET REFUGEES TO US SHIPS OFF SVN COAST (ISAACS, SUN). SAIGON EVACUATION MARRED BY BAD PLANNING, BITTER FEUDING BETWEEN SECTIONS OF US MISSION (BUTTERFIELD, NYT). PRES SAYS AMB MARTIN DID WELL IN EVACUATION (REUTER, NYT). GUAM, 3 BASES IN US BUSY WITH REFUGEES (AP, SUN). SEVERAL PAPERS POINT OUT MIXED OPINIONS OF US PUBLIC ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN FACE OF ECON PROBLEMS. SOME DO HUMAN-INTEREST STORIES ON INDIVIDUAL REFUGEES. NYT'S BROWNE DESCRIBES TENDERNESS, HATRED, GRIEF OF LAST DAYS IN SAIGON.

DEJECTED KY LEAVES GUAM, SAYS MAY FLY, FARM OR DRIVE TAXI IN US (AP, SUN). KY RUSHED OFF GUAM, APPARENTLY FOR OWN SAFETY (NYDN). SAIGON'S "BIGGEST CROOK," LT GEN DANG VAN QUANG, SAILS TOWARD US HAVEN (BEECH, CDN 5/3-4). AT LEAST 30 SVN GENERALS "SOME CALLED UNSAVORY" FLEE TO SAFETY, MANY TO US (MCARTHUR, LAT 5/5).

HAK, ON 5/6 NBC/TV'S "TODAY" SHOW, SAYS US PROBABLY WRONG UNCLASSIFIED

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TO HAVE TURNED VN INTO TEST CASE FOR POLICY (WP); ADDS THAT US TAKING "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE TOWARD NEW COMMUNIST REGIME IN SAIGON (AP, CHITRIB). SEN CASE SAYS NIXON APPARENTLY VIOLATED 1972 CASE ACT BY FAILING TELL CONGRESS ABOUT SECRET COMMITMENTS (MARDER, WP); CALLS FOR FORMAL INVESTIGATION (SUN). US PROTESTS TO DANISH GOVT OVER CRITICISM OF AMERICAN POLICY, INCLUDING "MISTAKEN IDEOLOGICAL BASIS" IN VN (NYT).

NEW SAIGON REGIME EXTENDS AMNESTY DEADLINE TO MAY 31, ADDS THAT ANY OFFICIALS, SOLDIERS OF FORMER GOVT, WHO FAIL TURN SELVES IN WILL BE "SEVERELY PUNISHED" (AP SUN, NYT). VC SAY "TIGER CAGES" OPEN, ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

FREED. WESTERN DIPLOMATS IN MOSCOW EXPECT USSR GOVT MOVE
FAST TO SUPPLY VC IN EFFORT BLUNT CHINESE INFLUENCE IN
AREA (NYDN). VC SEEK VOLUNTEER MUSICIANS FOR "VICTORY
SINGS" (WP).

SVN GOVT, IN INDICATION PREPARING FOR PROLONGED PERIOD
OF OPERATING INDEPENDENTLY OF NVN, APPLIES FOR MEMBERSHIP
IN NUMBER UN ORGANIZATIONS (JOC), INCLUDING WHO AND
INTL METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION. ALL SVN EMBASSIES ABROAD
CLOSED (PHINQ). NEUTRAL DIPLOMAT IN FRANCE BELIEVES
SPEED, EXTENT OF COMMUNIST MIL VICTORY DEALT GRAVE BLOW
TO HOPES FOR MODERATE APPROACH TO UNIFICATION AND POLITICAL
ROLE FOR NON-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS IN SVN. SEES THIRD
FORCE ELIMINATED, STRONG CENTRAL RULE, PROBABLE
ISOLATION FROM FOREIGN CONTACT (NYT).

WH SAYS PRES "DEEPLY BOTHERED" BY REPORTED KHMER ROUGE
KILLINGS OF 80-90 CAMBODIAN MIL OFFICERS AND THEIR WIVES.
HAK SAYS "TRAGIC AND INHUMAN AND BARBAROUS" THINGS
GOING ON IN CAMBODIA (UPI WP, CHITRIB, PHINQ). HUNDREDS -
PERHAPS THOUSANDS - OF CAMBODIANS REPORTEDLY PUBLICLY
EXECUTED. FRENCH RADIO SAID BANGKOK CORRESPONDENT COLLECTED
EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS FROM FRENCH REFUGEES, BUT WILL NOT
BROADCAST THEM TO AVOID ENDANGERING THOSE REMAINING IN
PP (CARTER, NYDN). WESTERN JOURNALISTS WHO REMAINED IN
PP AND RECENTLY ARRIVED IN THAILAND HINT DARKLY OF SEVERE
MEASURES TAKEN BY KHMER ROUGE (MILLS, SUN). PP, KOMPONG
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CHHNANG, SIEM REAP REPORTED FORCIBLY EVACUATED (NYT).

LAOTIAN KING AND QUEEN RETURN TO LUANG PRABANG AFTER
6-DAY VISIT TO SAM NEUA (AFP, NYT).

2. JAPAN

JOC CITES JAPAN STEEL INFO CENTER DATA THAT SHOW 1974
EXPORTS TO US ROSE TO 7.1 MILLION TONS; BEST MARKET AREA
SEA IMPORTED 12.1 MILLION TONS, UP ABOUT 20 PERCENT
TO 3.5 MILLION TONS.

3. KOREA

HAK ON 5/6 NBC/TV "TODAY" SHOW SAYS THERE SHOULD BE NO
AMBIGUITY ABOUT OUR SK COMMITMENT, SINCE WE HAVE
CONGRESS-RATIFIED TREATY. FAILURE TO HONOR IT WOULD HAVE
DRASTIC EFFECTS ON JAPAN AND ASIA, AND WOULD BE SEEN AS
FINAL WITHDRAWAL FROM OUR WHOLE POSTWAR FOREIGN POLICY.

4. PHILIPPINES

HARVEY STOCKWIN (WP SPECIAL) DESCRIBES AQUINO HUNGER

STRIKE, SAYS NO COMPROMISE IN SIGHT TO PREVENT TRAGIC
END TO MARCOS-AQUINO POLITICAL RIVALRY. FORCE-FEEDING
MAY BE ORDERED IF AQUINO LAPSES INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS
BUT NOTES SOME DOCTORS SAY MAY NOT SAVE HIS LIFE.

OBERDORFER (WP) FINDS CONVICTION GROWING AMONG PHILS,
AMERICANS IN MANILA THAT MARCOS SERIOUS ABOUT ANNOUNCED
REASSESSMENT OF US SECURITY TIES. NOTES ONE OPTION
STUDY BY GOP WOULD PUT SUBIC BAY ON "PAY AS YOU USE"
PLAN, WITH USN SHIPS, OTHERS PAYING FIXED FEE EACH TIME
USE DOCKS, REPROVISION (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

GOP MONDAY RAISED GASOLINE PRICES 12.2 PERCENT; PREMIUM
GAS NOW COSTS 76 CENTS/GAL (UPI, NYDN).

5. THAILAND

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RTG AGREES RETURN TO US 120 PLANES FLOWN INTO THAILAND
BY FLEEING SVIET AIRMEN, ACCORDING DOD MONDAY (WP).
OVER WEEKEND, MIDWAY ANCHORED OFF SATTAHIP, BEGAN
LOADING 54 F-5S, A-37S, MANY HELOS; C-130S FLYING DIRECT
TO CLARK AB (FINNEY, NYT; NYDN). RETRIEVAL OF PLANES
PROVIDED VNAF LEAVES SOME 900 AIRCRAFT (PERHAPS 200
COMBAT TYPES) IN SVN, CONDITION UNKNOWN (CORDDRY, SUN).

US, RTG ANNOUNCED JOINTLY MONDAY US TO REDUCE FORCES
IN THAILAND BY 7,500 BY END OF JUNE, TO ABOUT 19,500
(WP; CORDDRY). NESSEN SAID MONDAY US WILL REDUCE FURTHER,
ANF IF RTG WANTS ALL WITHDRAWN, "THEN OF COURSE THEY
WILL BE" (FINNEY).

RTG SPOKESMAN SAID MONDAY THAILAND, LAOS CLOSED MEKONG
RIVER BORDER FOR THREE DAYS, TO WORK ON PLAN TO END
SMUGGLING (AP, NYDN).

NINETY-NINE PAKISTANI REFUGEES RELEASED BY CAMBODIAN
COMMUNISTS ARRIVED ARANYAPRATHET SATURDAY (UPI, WP).
ANDELMAN (NYT) SAYS HAVE BEEN REFUSED ENTRY THAILAND,
MAY BE SENT BACK, ACCORDING DIPLOMATIC, RELIEF AGENCY
SOURCES. ALMOST ALL PAKISTANI MERCHANTS FROM BATTAMBANG,
WHO FEARED COULD NOT CONTINUE OWN WAY OF LIFE; VOLUNTARILY
JOINED FOREIGN REFUGEE CONVOY TO BORDER, BUT LACK TRAVEL
DOCUMENTS.

6. HONG KONG

JOC NOTES HK TRADE PLUNGED MORE THAN 13 PERCENT IN FIRST
QUARTER, TO 2.67 BILLION DOLS. CITES HK OFFICIALS WHO

BELIEVE US MAY INCLUDE UNDER GPS, BUT MUST GIVE UP
"REVERSE PREFERENCES" THAT AID COMMONWEALTH GOODS.

7. MALAYSIA

RAZAK TOLD PRESS MONDAY MALAYSIA FACES NO IMMEDIATE DANGER
OF UPSURGE IN COMMUNIST GUERRILLA ACTIVITY; SITUATION
DIFFERS FROM VN WHERE PEOPLE FOUGHT FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENC
WHILE IN MALAYSIA COMMUNISTS ARE BANDITS INTENT ON OVER-
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THROWING POPULARLY-ELECTED GOVT (REUTER, WP).

JOC'S STRAUSS IN KL REVIEWS RECENT AFFIRMATION BY HIGHEST
COURT OF DECISION AWARDED COMPENSATION TO FIRM
EXPROPRIATED BY GOM, EVEN FOR LOSS OF GOODWILL -- PORTRAYS
AS HEALTHY COUNTER TO RISING BUSINESS CONCERN ABOUT
MARXIST TREND IN AREA THAT MAY BE REINFORCED BY COMMUNIST
VICTORIES IN SEA.

8. SINGAPORE

SPOKESMAN SAYS 36 SVN SHIPS WITH 6,500 REFUGEES STILL
ANCHORED IN HARBOR. SK FREIGHTER THAT PICKED UP 217
SVIET REFUGEES FROM DISABLED SHIP TRYING FIND PLACE
TO DEBARK (NYDN).

9. NEW ZEALAND

JOC (LONDON) CITES COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT DATA THAT SHOW
NZ BEEF PRODUCTION FOR EXPORT DECLINED TO 12,575 TONS,
AND MUTTON BY HALF TO 20,642 TONS.

9. CHINA

BANKAMERICA PRES CLAUSEN MET PRC BANKING, FINANCIAL OFFICIAL
IN PEKING, DISCUSSED CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS, BANKING PRO-
CEDURES, FROZEN CHINESE ASSETS IN US, ACCORDING BOFA
SPOKESMAN HK (JOC).

REP WOLFF, IN IRC SPECIAL REPORT, PROPOSES US SEEK PRC
COOPERATION CURB ILLICIT INTL DRUG TRADE TO PATROL WATERS
WHERE HK JUNKS, OCEAN-GOING SHIPS TRAFFIC IN DRUGS.
SUGGESTS WESTERN NATIONS FORM GROUP TO DO SO, INCLUDING
HOLLAND, CANADA, FRANCE, FRG. REP GILMAN SUGGESTS US
BUY MUCH WORLD OPIUM AS POSSIBLE, DESTROY IT; SAYS SHAN
STATE OF BURMA OFFERED SELL OPIUM CROP TO US FOR 12 MILLION
DOLS, WHICH "COMPARITIVELY CHEAP" (UPI, PHINQ).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

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LAT'S MCARTHUR (MAY 4) SAYS IN GVN'S LAST DAYS, AMB MARTIN GAVE EVERY IMPRESSION PERHAPS PURPOSELY, OF NOT BELIEVING DISASTER WAS GOING TO OVERTAKE HIM. SUGGESTS MUCH OF MARTIN'S TOUGHNESS AT END CAN PROBABLY BE TRACED TO HIS DIFFICULT INITIAL DAYS IN SVN, WHEN HE ARRIVED IN MIDSUMMER 1973 TO FIND THAT SOMEHOW NIXON/HAK HAD FAILED CHART ANY POLICY FOR SVN AFTER PARIS AGREEMENTS; POLICY IDEAS ABOUT VN CAME FROM MARTIN, WITH KISSINGER SHOWING LITTLE INTEREST AND VN WORKING GROUP BECAME SOMETHING SIMILAR TO EXTRA APPENDIX.

CSM'S SOUTHERLAND SUGGESTS AMB MARTIN'S CRITICS, AS TIMES GOES BY, ARE LIKELY FOCUS LESS ATTENTION ON "HASTY AND DISORDERLY" SAIGON EVACUATION THAN ON MORE WEIGHTY ISSUE OF MARTIN'S ENTIRE VN POLICY (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). WP (MAY 4) SEES TWO NIXON LETTERS TO THIEU DEMONSTRATING HOW US WAS CAUGHT IN TRAP OF DECEIT AND SECRECY IN ORDER END WAR, RECOVER POWS' APPROPRIATE LESSON IS THAT STATESMEN SHOULD NEVER CONCEIVE AND CONDUCT POLICIES WHOSE SUCCESS DEPENDS ON LYING (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

PHILA BULLETIN (MAY 1) HOLDS THAT ALTHOUGH LIMITS OF US POWER AND PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THIS MEANS ARE AMONG OBVIOUS LESSONS FROM VN, WE MUST ALSO ACCURATELY IDENTIFY AND LIVE UP TO COUNTRY'S ABIDING RESPONSIBILITIES IN AREA OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

CDN (MAY 3-4) SAYS AFTER VN, US SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON SELF-INTEREST FOREIGN AFFAIRS MATTERS: NO FURTHER COMMITMENT OF US TROOPS IN SEA WARRANTED; OUR VITAL NATIONAL INTEREST LIES EAST OF LINE RUNNING SOUTHWARD FROM SEOUL TO MANILA, EMBRACING JAPAN BUT EXCLUDING TAIWAN. COLUMBIA U PROF WRIGGINS, IN LETTER TO NYT, THINKS VN OUTCOME SHOULD COMPEL CONGRESS AND ADMIN TURN SERIOUS ATTENTION, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO RELATIONS WITH WE, JAPAN, PRC AND INDIA. FORMER USIS SAIGON DIRECTOR ANSPACHER WRITES WP REGRETTING GEN MINH HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR SVN SURRENDER; FORMER AMB MURAL WILLIAMS WRITES THAT HAK SHOULD ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SVN FALL.

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GLOBE (MAY 4) COUNSELS THAT AMERICANS NOT GIVE UNWITTING CREDENCE TO DOMINO THEORY BY REACTING SO STRONGLY TO VN FAILURE THAT WE ABANDON COMMITMENTS TO REST OF WORLD. WM BUCKLEY (WSTAR MAY 4) ENDORSES "NATIONAL REVIEW" PROPOSAL THAT US NOTIFY NVN HANOI WILL BE ATOMIZED IF SVN

SUBJECTED TO GENOCIDAL SLAUGHTER.

KRAFT (SUN MAY 4) THINKS SOME ASIAN STATES--THAILAND, PHILIPPINES, PERHAPS SINGAPORE--MUST SCRAMBLE TO CHANGE POSITION FOLLOWING SVN DEFEAT; BUT MOST IMPORTANT ASIAN COUNTRIES, NOTABLY JAPAN, HAVE ALREADY MADE ADJUSTMENTS TO "NEW REALITY" WITHOUT FRAYING US TIES.

GLOBE SEES REFUGEES, RECONSTRUCTION AND WAR RESISTERS AS WAR PROBLEMS THAT STILL HAVE TO BE RESOLVED. NYDN APPROVES PRES' REQUEST FOR 507 MILLION DOLS TO AID REFUGEES, SAYS IN KEEPING WITH AMERICAN WAY OF COMPASSION, HOSPITALITY. SUN (5/4) POINTS TO PRES AND CONGRESS BICKERING OVER EVACUATION AS UNWORTHY, SAYS VIETS CAN ENRICH US LIFE. WSTAR (5/4) FINDS VIET REFUGEES BADLY-CHOSEN TARGET OF SEVERAL OF NATION'S DISCONTENTS, BELIEVES MISGIVINGS DO NOT DILUTE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE THEM IN, THINKS INTELLIGENT LEADERSHIP CAN EASE TASK OF ABSORBING REFUGEES, WHO SHOULD BE GIVEN HUMANE WELCOME.

FURGURSON (SUN 5/4) BELIEVES AMERICANS WHO WANT TO SHUT OUT VIETS WILL BE ASHAMED OF THEMSELVES, SINCE TYPICAL VIET INTELLIGENT, DILIGENT, AND FUNDAMENTAL REASON FOR HELP REMAINS: BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT. KRAFT (SUN - IN USIA WIRELESS FILE) FINDS US HOSTILITY TO VIETS DUE TO INDIFFERENCE TO FATE OF SVN. GLOBE'S NYHAN BELIEVES CONGRESS WILL OK REFUGEE AID NOW, DESPITE UNPRECEDENTED HOSTILITY TOWARD VIET IN LAND THAT IS LEGACY OF MOMENTOUS FOREIGN POLICY DISASTER. UC GRAD STUDENT DO BA PHUOC (PHINQ) BELIEVES THOUSANDS OF VIET REFUGEES WILL RETURN HOME.

LAT'S LESLIE IN VIENTIANE SEES PL EDGING TOWARD VICTORY THROUGH RELIANCE ON SUPERIOR POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, UNCLASSIFIED

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ESPECIALLY SINCE COMMUNIST WINS IN CAMBODIA, SVN HAVE DEMORALIZED OPPOSITION. WP'S SIMONS IN VIENTIANE FINDS VIETS, CHINESE RESIDENT THERE FEAR COMMUNIST TAKEOVER, PLAN EXODUS.

11. KOREA

AGAINST BACKDROP OF DEEPENING ISOLATIONIST TREND IN US NYT'S HALLORAN IN SEOUL STATES PARK CHUNG-HEE BELIEVES SK MAY BE NEXT TROUBLE SPOT, FOLLOWING FALL OF ANTI-COMMUNIST GVN, GKR; AND KIM IL-SUNG CLEARLY WOULD LIKE IT TO BE (USIA WIRELESS FILE).

REUTER'S MACKENZIE (WP) QUOTES FM SAYING IN INTERVIEW

"WE ARE QUITE CONFIDENT NOW" THAT US WILL HONOR DEFENSE
COMMITMENT TO ROK, BUT ALSO QUITE TRUE "KIM IL-SUNG
MAY MISCALCULATE" REAL INTENTIONS OF US.

HEARST'S KINGSBURY SMITH (BALTO N-A SEES KIM IL-SUNG
"BEGINNING TO RATTLE THE SABRE" AND, ENCOURAGED BY US
FAILURE TO KEEP COMMITMENTS IN SEA, SEEMS THINK US
WOULD NOT FIGHT AGAIN TO SAVE SK.

12. THAILAND

TREADING FINE LINE BETWEEN ACCOMMODATION WITH INDOCHINA
COMMUNIST REGIMES AND PRESERVING INDEPENDENCE BY
TRADITIONAL, SHREWD DIPLOMACY WILL NOT BE EASY FOR
THAILAND, ACCORDING CSM, AND THAIS MAY EVEN WISH KEEP
CERTAIN US PRESENCE (USIA WIRELESS FILE).

MCCARTNEY (WP) FINDS BEHAVIOR OF POTENTIAL DOMINO
THAILAND UNCHARACTERISTIC -- INSTEAD OF SEEKING DEFENSE
HELP SHAKY CONSERVATIVE RTG YIELDS TO DOMESTIC PRESSURE
TO GET RID OF UNPOPULAR FOREIGNERS, AND TRIES PURSUE
MORE NEUTRAL POLICY.

13. SINGAPORE

WP'S OBERDORFER IN SINGAPORE OBSERVES THIS RICH,
BUSTLING CITY-STATE CASTING WARY EYES TO NORTH AFTER
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FALL OF VN, CAMBODIA, AND LAOS BEGINNING TEETER -- BUT
WORRY IS THAILAND WHERE UNSTABLE RTG CONFRONTS
COMMUNIST PRESSURES IN NE, AND MALAYSIA WHERE COMMUNIST
INSURGENCY ALONG THAI BORDER HAS TAKEN ON NEW LIFE.
NOTES PM LEE TERMS NEW SITUATION "DETENTE, MINUS",
MEANING "MINUS REAL PEACE AND COOPERATION IN THE THIRD
WORLD COUNTRIES", THAT USHERS IN "ANXIOUS, CONFUSED,
TROUBLED" PERIOD. KISSINGER

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